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Chairman: Mr. Asadi ..... (Islamic Republic of Iran)
later: Mr. Ozügergin (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Turkey)
later: Mr. Asadi (Chairman) ..... (Islamic Republic of Iran)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 95: operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/53/85, A/53/154, A/53/186, A/53/226, A/53/226/Add.1–4 and A/53/363)

1. **Mr. Tanasescu** (Romania) said that the current triennial comprehensive policy review was taking place under very special circumstances. First of all, the reforms introduced by the Secretary-General had led to the establishment of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), a strengthened resident coordinator system and United Nations houses, which were increasingly gaining the confidence of Member States, including Romania. His country was among the 18 States that had been selected for the pilot phase of UNDAF. The UNDAF exercise in Romania had confirmed the vital role of the resident coordinator and the importance of cooperation among governmental structures. Second, the triennial review was taking place at a time when international solidarity was necessary to combat the negative effects of globalization, such as marginalization and poverty. In his delegation's view, operational activities were an element of such solidarity. Third, official development assistance had declined to its lowest level ever. In that context, his delegation welcomed the efforts of the Working Group on Funding Strategy established by the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board.

2. In view of those special circumstances, his delegation had a number of expectations. First, it trusted that the draft resolution to be adopted by the Committee would restore the confidence of both donor and programme countries in operational activities. Second, the adoption of new measures should strengthen all the components of the United Nations reform process in the field of operational activities, on the basis of lessons learned from the first year of operation of UNDG, UNDAF, the resident coordinator system and United Nations houses. Coordination was vital at both the country and Headquarters level. In that context, it agreed with the representative of Switzerland that the coordinating role of UNDP should remain unquestioned. Referring to the statement by the UNDP Administrator during the recent panel discussion on UNDAF, he supported the adoption of minimal standards for personnel, logistical facilities and the use of common premises by the resident coordinator system. Minimal standards would also be useful for the periodic evaluation of country-level coordination and the preparation of UNDG reports to the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly.

3. The comprehensive triennial review should also provide guidance concerning the allocation of UNDP resources established in 1995 and consider whether the UNDP pattern of allocation could be extended to other funds and programmes. His delegation supported the principle of distribution in three categories, under the system known as target resource assignment from the core (TRAC 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.3) and hoped that the resources allocated to regional programmes and countries in special situations would be efficiently utilized. The triennial review should also generate ideas on the future mandate and role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and on the role of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) both with respect to operational activities and to UNDG and the resident coordinator system. Lastly, it should address the practices of the executive boards of the funds and programmes. During the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, his delegation had suggested several improvements in that regard.

4. **Mr. Sin Song Chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that priority-setting in the formulation phase of United Nations assistance programmes would help to achieve the all-important goal of cost-effective support for development at the field level. It would also help the country concerned to accelerate the implementation of its economic policy, exploit its own natural resources and provide the appropriate mix of technological equipment and training to that end. It was of paramount importance to strengthen the resident coordinator system; resident coordinators were in the best position to understand the situation on the ground and to promote cooperation among operational activities for development. He urged Member States to provide the necessary funding for the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/120 and, in particular, the developed countries to honour their commitments to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance. Furthermore, new sources of development financing must be sought.

5. In conclusion, he thanked all those who had provided emergency humanitarian assistance in the wake of the natural disaster his country had suffered.

6. **Ms. Izata** (Angola) said that, in her country, the peace process had taken a dangerous turn, aggravating the negative consequences of globalization and liberalization. Her Government was making every effort to establish lasting peace and, at the same time, to implement economic recovery and stabilization programmes for its population, particularly in the rural areas. In that context, she noted that Angola was ranked among the 48 poorest countries in the

world in the 1998 *Human Development Report* published by UNDP, despite the assistance it had received from United Nations agencies.

7. The social situation in her country was alarming. As a result of the war, there were 5 million internally displaced persons, 2 million refugees in neighbouring countries and 80,000 crippled persons, most of whom had stepped on landmines. In addition, 60 per cent of school-age children could not attend school owing to lack of infrastructure.

8. Her delegation noted with concern the reduction in UNDP core resources, which was limiting the resident representative's ability to carry out his assignment in Angola. She praised UNDP for its achievements under such financial constraints and expressed the hope that Angola could be included, in the future, among the countries participating in the UNDAF pilot project, so as to forestall further economic and social deterioration.

9. **Mr. Zhdanovich** (Belarus) said that his delegation welcomed the proposed measures to reform the work of the operational activities system. It also welcomed the increased emphasis being placed by UNDP on activities in the field, in particular in the Eastern European and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region. Most activities had made use of national execution and other innovative approaches which had received support from Governments. Decentralization and delegation of authority to the field was a positive result of the strengthening of the resident coordinator system and facilitated greater cooperation among United Nations agencies. His delegation supported the proposals to transfer personnel from headquarters to the field.

10. The resident coordinator system was one of the most important mechanisms for the future of operational activities. In the view of his delegation, however, more attention must be paid to the relationship between the resident coordinators and the recipient countries. Regular consultations between resident coordinators and national partners would help the system to react more quickly to national priorities. His delegation also believed that the functions of resident coordinator should, on a practical level, be carried out by the UNDP resident representative.

11. With regard to financing, his country, like many others, was concerned at the decline in official development assistance. Closer cooperation was needed with the funds and programmes of the Bretton Woods institutions, national institutions and non-governmental organizations in order to address funding problems and increase the effectiveness of all their activities. His Government had significantly increased its financial participation by co-financing projects with UNDP and was meeting 75 per cent of the operating costs for the office in Belarus. It had also allocated $300,000 to UNDP for execution of a small and medium-sized enterprises project over a period of three years.

12. Finally, his delegation supported the measures to implement the Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit for Children and looked forward to the special session of the General Assembly for the review of its implementation.

13. **Mr. Amaziane** (Morocco) said that his delegation embraced the principles of neutrality, universality and the grant nature of operational activities. Indeed, neutrality and impartiality were distinct qualities of the United Nations which had facilitated the incorporation of international goals into national development plans and programmes. The resident coordinator system was the centrepiece of United Nations activities at the field level and must be strengthened. The progress achieved in coordinating the response of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to the needs of recipient countries was commendable. Unfortunately, such obstacles as diminishing financial resources, complex procedures, differing degrees of decentralization and delegation of authority and the lack of common premises frequently prevented United Nations agencies from extending that coordination to the programming level.

14. The country strategy note/UNDAF processes should improve the coherence of operational activities and their integration in national development efforts. The impact of the country strategy note and UNDAFs would be further strengthened by the adoption of the programme approach, provided that United Nations bodies simplified and harmonized their country programming procedures. Thus far, despite numerous appeals to do so – most recently in General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 50/120 – most resident coordinators reported that no progress had been made since 1995.

15. His delegation supported the national execution modality, and believed that it should become the norm for all projects; indeed, when a programme was not implemented using that modality the reasons for not doing so should be given.

16. The decline in available resources for operational activities was a direct threat to the viability of multilateral cooperation. He expressed grave concern at the decrease of UNDP core resources and in UNICEF resources, and at the stagnation in UNFPA and WFP resources. The increase in special-purpose funds did not offset the drop in core contributions. The situation was particularly distressing, in view of the commitments undertaken by Member States at

the global conferences held during the post-cold-war era. He hoped that the work of staff members at the field level would inspire Member States to assume their share of the financial responsibility. Serious negotiations should be held on the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the financing of operational activities, in order to ensure that they were proportional with the growing needs of the developing countries, particularly in Africa. Reform measures should also seek to establish some proportionality between voluntary and assessed contributions, in order to ensure that States of similar means contributed at similar levels.

17. **Mr. Dailami** (Yemen) said that the development process in developing countries was suffering from a continued shortfall in external assistance and the effects of the economic crisis. The Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, established to promote policy coherence, had achieved some positive results His delegation considered that it was right for the Committee to focus on policy and increased United Nations/Bretton Woods institutions cooperation. As had been pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/226/Add.1), paragraph 49, it was recognized that there were differences in perspectives, mandates, structures, methods of work and resources, but it was generally felt that all had much to offer and much to gain through greater interaction. The role of the resident coordinator in promoting policy dialogues among development partners, upon government request, was increasing in importance. That embodied the concept of "comparative advantage": United Nations neutrality and mandates, work in the social sectors and close relations with partners made it possible to increase the coordination of activities and provide more effective support for national endeavours.

18. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the World Declaration and Plan of Action from the World Summit for Children (A/53/186), he said that, as noted in paragraph 6, the 1990s had been remarkable in many respects, with numerous developments that favoured the cause of women and children. The decade had seen widespread promotion of the principles of democratic governance and respect for human rights. Nevertheless, it would be difficult to meet the targets set for the year 2000 for the major goals at both the regional and global levels unless partners in development coordinated their endeavours. The Republic of Yemen, considering children to be a national resource for the future, was doing everything in its power to ensure that children enjoyed all their rights.

19. Yemen, one of the least developed countries, was making every endeavour to develop, despite the many difficulties it faced due to internal factors and the regional and international economic situation. It therefore welcomed the development efforts undertaken by the United Nations and recognized the important role of the Bretton Woods institutions and looked forward to increased coordination with development partners and to receiving the increased development assistance necessary for comprehensive and sustainable development.

20. **Mr. Oujali** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation supported the Secretary-General's endeavours to reform the United Nations, but noted that to date, the only result had been the cutting or reduction of programmes. Pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, the mandate of the Organization was not restricted to peacekeeping operations but included economic and social development, without which peace and security were impossible. It was therefore unacceptable that United Nations development programmes should suffer from underfunding, at a time when developing countries' need for assistance was ever-increasing. Such countries had suffered greatly as a result of globalization and the conditions imposed by the international financial institutions. That had led to increasing marginalization, in particular of the least developed countries, and the slowing down or complete halting of development efforts in many of them, largely due to lack of official development assistance (ODA) and heavy indebtedness. The amount of ODA provided by the world's two richest countries, the United States of America and Japan, had decreased sharply. He therefore appealed to donor countries with decreased levels of ODA to increase their voluntary contributions. Developing countries also had an obligation to facilitate partnership in development endeavours.

21. The issue of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework was of great concern to developing countries for a number of reasons. In the proposal put forward by the Secretary-General, the framework for development appeared to have changed into a process of a more permanent nature. Whereas General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 50/120 had emphasized the voluntary nature of operational activities, it now appeared that those were to be imposed on all countries without exception and regardless of their needs. Furthermore, the United Nations, rather than the recipient country, would be in control. His delegation did not see how the proposed framework could add anything to the development process in developing countries, but feared, on the contrary, that the administration of such a framework would impose an additional burden on resources, and increase delays and bureaucracy. He did not accept that the framework would increase United Nations

participation in response to requests for assistance by governments, since the country strategy note also provided a framework for requests for assistance. Nevertheless, his delegation was prepared to accept the framework in principle, providing the current pilot project was considered successful by the governments of the countries involved. Participating countries must be genuinely involved in that evaluation.

22. Another issue of great concern to developing countries was that of the resident coordinator system. His delegation was particularly concerned by the suggestion that a building for the United Nations should be found or built and equipped with the most modern electronic systems and equipment. There appeared to be little advantage to such an operation, and it would, moreover, be extremely expensive. Developments in communications made it easy for agencies to coordinate with headquarters. It was important for programme and organization representatives to be located in the host country, but the duties of such representatives were to coordinate rather than control. The resident coordinator should not preside over meetings of the donor group, since he would be obliged to accept and implement decisions adopted at such meetings, which could conflict with his role as catalyst between the host and donor countries. His delegation did not think that the duties of such an official could be very onerous, and therefore saw no need for the appointment of a full-time coordinator. Moreover, it did not consider that governments should be expected to contribute to expenses, as the resident coordinator would be undertaking duties on behalf of the United Nations.

23. *Mr. Özügergin (Turkey), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

24. **Mr. Akplogan** (Benin) reiterating the concern expressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Benin during the general debate of the plenary Assembly, at the decrease in the core resources of the various funds and programmes, appealed to donor countries to show the necessary solidarity and political will to increase those resources. His delegation attached great importance to strengthening the resident coordinator system, which would enhance coordination among the various United Nations agencies and maximize the benefit derived by recipient countries. It wished, in particular, to see the increased cooperation between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions.

25. In January 1997, his Government had adopted a country strategy note covering the period 1997–2001, which coincided with that of the implementation of its UNDP country cooperation framework. The note focused on poverty reduction and the improvement of living conditions; good governance and the emancipation of civil society; and employment, vocational training and the development of small- and medium-sized businesses and industries. Government had also established a national coordination, the follow-up and evaluation committee which would meet once a year to ensure the complementarity of the programmes of the United Nations specialized agencies and their conformity with the priorities outlined; determine, on an annual basis, the validity of the priorities for implementing the country strategy note; mobilize resources for the implementation of the national plan of action; and conduct mid-term and final evaluations of activities carried out under the country strategy note. Harmonization of the programming cycles of the funds and programmes functioning in Benin, including with the country strategy note, would help to ensure its implementation. The linkages between the operational activities of the United Nations system and the objectives of national development programmes must be strengthened, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 50/120. It was also necessary to take measures to avoid duplication and the dispersal of ever-diminishing resources.

26. His delegation attached special importance to establishing common premises for all the funds and programmes operating in its territory and had thus decided to build a United Nations house, with financial assistance from its development partners, particularly Japan and the Scandinavian countries.

27. As a least developed country, Benin attached great importance to the promotion of South-South cooperation, particularly at a time when countries with weaker economies were being marginalized by the globalization process. In that context, the United Nations had a vital role to play through the provision of financial and technical assistance in support of South-South cooperation and the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries.

28. **Ms. Rose-Oduyemi** (World Health Organization (WHO)) said that the World Health Organization was working with Governments, UNICEF and other partners to achieve the goals and targets for child health and survival for the year 2000 agreed at the World Summit for Children. Some progress had been achieved at mid-decade but that was no reason for complacency. Progress had been extremely uneven, and in some countries childhood mortality rates were on the increase. The number of deaths occurring among the world's poorest children was grossly disproportionate.

29. In 45 countries, at least 1 out of 10 children did not survive to the age of five in 1995; in 13 of those countries,

all but one of which were in Africa, the figures were 1 out of 5 children. Seventy per cent of child deaths globally were due to five preventable or treatable conditions: acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, malaria, measles and malnutrition. The introduction of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) strategy in 1996 had marked an intensification of efforts to reduce childhood mortality in collaboration with UNICEF, Governments and other partners. The aim was to improve the skills of health workers in identifying and treating sick children, improve the system of care delivery and promote family and community practices supporting the health and development of children. Prevention was strongly emphasized through improved nutrition, including breastfeeding, wider immunization coverage against childhood diseases and increasing the use of insecticide-treated bed-nets. The strategy was promising, but there was still far to go to achieve the full implementation of the rights of children to the highest attainable standard of health and to guarantee their access to quality health services.

30. In conclusion, WHO was reaching out to other members of the United Nations family to unite their resources and knowledge, work more closely with countries, and engage the private sector. Those new working relationships would make a difference to the health of children and others among the poorest.

31. **Mr. Azaeiez** (Tunisia) said that the review of operational activities for development was taking place in a context of stagnation of the core resources of the United Nations funds and programmes. That situation was of concern to the developing countries because operational activities continued to play an important role in assisting them to manage their development. The United Nations system had contributed to the implementation of Morocco's National Development Plan 1997–2001 by providing technical cooperation, strengthening national capacity and helping to define an integrated approach to sustainable human development. Although the amount of assistance provided was modest, its impact had been great.

32. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework provided an integrated approach that could strengthen the utilization of country strategy notes and the programme approach. Those tools, however useful they might be, would have no real impact unless they significantly improved the coherence of programmes and the cost-effectiveness of operational activities. According to paragraph 97 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/226) the relationship between the country strategy note and UNDAF was viewed by system organizations in different ways; in the view of his delegation, that ran counter to the goal being pursued. The issue should therefore be reconsidered.

33. Capacity-building was at the centre of global concerns for development, and his delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendations in that area. Tunisia hoped to see capacity-building as the central focus of all activities undertaken by United Nations funds and programmes.

34. Despite the efforts made to explore new funding modalities, it was clear to his delegation that the current financing modalities for core resources did not attract the contributions required to meet the objectives established and cover the new needs created by the United Nations global conferences. The decision to contribute was essentially based on political considerations, and his delegation hoped that, in the course of the review of operational activities and in accordance with United Nations reform, a way could be found to allow the funds and programmes to play their proper role in development.

35. **Mr. Guglielmelli Vera** (Venezuela) said that his Government had placed priority on the implementation of social development programmes and had relied on the United Nations agencies as an irreplaceable partner in the design and execution of many of those programmes. The UNDP cooperation framework with Venezuela for 1997–1999 proposed the mobilization of about $3 / million to fight poverty and social inequality. Venezuela would contribute almost 95 per cent of those resources, but UNDP participation was especially important in helping to design long-term projects and in training local staff. It also provided rigorous administrative monitoring throughout the project and guaranteed that the project would stay on schedule. The resources contributed by UNDP represented seed money and were absolutely necessary in order to generate supplementary financial resources and additional technical capacity. His delegation supported the coordination process that would result in the UNDAF, which should make it easier to attract supplementary resources from non-traditional donors, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society.

36. Venezuela, like other Latin American countries, had made great efforts to compensate for the decline in core resources, but supplementary resources should not be considered a substitute. It was important to inform donor countries of the real needs existing in the region. Criteria for the allocation of core resources should include such parameters as levels of poverty, proportion of the population in extreme poverty and the health care education and housing situation, in order to reflect the regional realities. Broader consultation with the focal points for international technical

cooperation in each country would ensure that projects reflected national and regional needs. It should be made clear that the allocation of core resources guaranteed that the nature of operational activities as development programmes would be preserved.

37. **Mr. Eghlim** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the triennial policy review had coincided with the global financial crisis, which had undermined the achievements of most developing countries in the social sector. One of the main challenges would be to preserve their achievements in such fields as health care, education, food security, the health and welfare of women and children and population and human resource development. The crisis had also hit both the public and private sector. Governments did not have sufficient resources to finance social expenditure, and rising unemployment inevitably increased the poverty rate. Unfortunately, financial crises had not been considered a systemic threat to social and human development programmes at a global level and responses had thus far been sporadic. A coordinated response by different international entities was vital.

38. The priority common to almost all developing countries was poverty eradication. Currently, lack of resources, in particular core and general resources, was the main impediment to the expansion of operational activities in that area. Unfortunately, however, official development assistance, the major external source for development financing, had reached its lowest level in decades. The emphasis placed by the United Nations system and the developed countries on active follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of the recent major conferences and summits was incompatible with the real situation of official development assistance.

39. Ownership of programmes by recipient countries was crucial to their success; all initiatives at the headquarters or field level should show flexibility and responsiveness to the priorities and needs of the recipient country. The UNDAF process, which was in the pilot phase, would be subject to assessment, and only preliminary conclusions could be drawn at the current session. The full ownership of the process by recipient countries in all its phases was crucial.

40. **Ms. Simonová** (Czech Republic) said that her delegation attached great importance to the issue of capacity-building for development in the globalized world economy. The report of the Secretary-General provided evidence of the substantial changes that were gradually shaping a new pattern of multilateral development assistance. Numerous efforts were being made to achieve better coordination of international assistance in the field through UNDAFs and the resident coordinator system, as well as the new funding strategy being developed for UNDP and UNFPA. However, the current state of the world economy raised new questions about whether those and other anticipated changes in operational activities were adequate and about the focus of multilateral development assistance.

41. Although the Czech Republic had passed through its transition period quickly and with relative success, it had learned that the role of the Government, good governance, the rule of law and development of sustainable industrial and export policies must not be underestimated and that, without internal capacity-building – without development of its own human, institutional and technological potential to meet the challenges of globalization – a country could not find the path towards sustainable development.

42. Developing countries as well as most countries in transition needed support and assistance from the United Nations system to enhance their own capacity for integration into a globalizing world economy. There were not many other options. All dimensions of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) should be employed. Her delegation fully supported the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General that capacity-building should be explicitly articulated as a goal of all technical assistance and should be conceived of not only as human resources training but also as the development of institutions and the improvement of the environment in which they operated. A greater focus on capacity-building would bring a substantial benefit to countries facing the most important challenge, succeeding in globalization.

43. *Mr. Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran), Chairman, resumed the Chair.*

44. **Mr. Shaffer** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/226) that operational activities should contribute to enhancing the links with civil society carried particular significance for ILO since its operational activities were formulated and implemented in response to the expressed needs of its constituents, representing not only Governments, but also representatives of employers and workers. Its active partnership policy had increased its technical presence in the field and responsiveness to its constituents, thereby facilitating coordination of its activities at the country level within the framework of the United Nations system.

45. In June 1998, the International Labour Conference had adopted a declaration, reaffirming the normative foundation upon which technical cooperation activities were based.

46. Through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) ILO recognized an opportunity to promote its constituents' priorities in the context of the active partnership policy. At its forthcoming session, the Governing Body would examine UNDAF in the light of the ILO mandate, priorities and competencies in terms of the impact that instrument would have on the tripartite nature of the organization at the field level and the added value of participation in UNDAF.

47. In line with the framework outlined in the Secretary-General's report, ILO would not miss opportunities for collaboration with United Nations agencies and other development partners in areas where joint action could result in added value for its constituents. Such opportunities, to cite just a few examples, existed in the fields of the abolition of child labour, promotion of urban employment and slum upgrading, increasing the impact of investment policies on employment and in poverty alleviation through informal sector support.

48. **Ms. Hormilla** (Cuba), welcomed and supported the efforts made by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) to improve the coordination of activities. However, Cuba was concerned by the excessive importance which had been given to the issue of coordination and which resulted in it becoming an administrative or management matter, diverting the attention of Member States from the genuine priorities involved in development cooperation. UNDAF was being presented as a panacea for the numerous problems faced by the system of operational activities, although it was hard to imagine what it would be able to provide if the basic resources for the funds and programmes continued to diminish. No exercise in the field would be successful unless it had the approval and broadest participation of recipient Governments, and responded to their own national priorities.

49. The UNDAF had started as a constructive initiative, and it had not been intended to undermine the national Government's leading role in coordinating operational activities in the field. Her delegation was opposed to the introduction of thematic, financial or political conditionalities that were incompatible with the fundamental characteristics of operational activities in the United Nations system, namely, their universality, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, and it upheld the principle of strict adherence to the priorities established by recipient countries.

50. **Mr. Haemmerli** (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said he had been very encouraged by the way in which those who had participated in the debate had welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and their broad support for the work that had been done regarding evaluation as well as for the innovations concerning the impact of operational activities. It was to be hoped that the range of participants in the evaluation process could be extended.

Agenda item 91: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*) (A/C.2/53/L.2, L.4, and L.5)

(b) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries (*continued*)

Draft resolution on the financial crisis and its impact on growth and development, especially in the developing countries (A/C.2/53/L.4)

51. **Mr. Hapsoro** (Indonesia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.4 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, drew attention to paragraphs 2, 10 and 15 and invited all delegations to participate in the informal consultations on the text.

(c) Commodities (*continued*)

Draft resolution on commodities (A/C.2/53/L.5)

52. **Ms. Djatmiko-Singgih** (Indonesia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.5 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was intended to invigorate the importance of the commodity sector, which remained the principal source of export revenue for developing countries.

(d) External debt crisis and development (*continued*)

Draft resolution on enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries (A/C.2/53/L.2)

53. **Ms. Djatmiko-Singgih** (Indonesia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.2 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that by using the same title as the previous year the intention was to underscore the regrettable fact that the external debt problem of the developing countries was still far from being resolved. There was still an urgent need for a "once-and-for-all" approach designed to reduce the overall stock and service of the indebted countries to sustainable levels.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.